

# Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association Semi-Annual Press Release

## **ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR CONVEYOR SHIPMENTS**

March 17, 1999

NAPLES, FLORIDA — The Conveyor Equipment Manufacturers Association (CEMA) reports that after three years of back to back industry records for booked orders, 1998 billings set a new record with a 2% increase over the record set in 1997 although bookings were down 8%.

Led by a softening in unit handling categories, but with bulk categories holding the line, CEMA estimates that, in 1998, the industry rang up new orders of \$5.4 billion and a new record \$5.6 billion in shipments. Prior records, established in 1997, were \$5.8 billion in orders and \$5.4 billion in shipments, according to Ben Hinterlong, CEMA President, who announced the results at the Association's Annual Meeting in Litchfield Park, Arizona.

Founded in 1933, CEMA is the national trade association of leading U.S. conveyor equipment manufacturers. CEMA tracks seven classes of unit handling equipment and four classes of bulk handling equipment.

Six of the unit handling categories showed some level of decrease in booked orders. Bookings for light to medium unit handling conveyors, the usual leader in dollar volume, were down 3%. Light-Medium and Heavy Duty unit conveyors showed a decrease of 7% in booked sales with an increase of a modest 1% in shipments. Overall, orders for unit handling conveyors were 8% lower with shipments up 5%.

Booked sales for three of the four bulk handling categories were up from last years comparable period. Bulk conveyor components, the leader in bulk category booked sales volume, were up 10%. Screw conveyor bookings increased by 1%. Engineered bulk systems bookings for 1998 were down 14% from the 1997 level. Overall, orders for bulk handling conveyors were up 3%. Shipments showed a 2% increase from comparable 1997 levels.

The executives representing CEMA member companies who attended the Annual Meeting were hopeful that 1999 orders and shipments would return to 1997 record levels.

For further information on CEMA or its member companies, visit our web site at <http://www.cemanet.org>

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